Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15 /115 W

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R 281202Z MAR 78 FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1551 INFO USDA WASHDC USLO RIYADH AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

UNCLAS JIDDA 2354

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ECSM, EPAP, SA

SUBJ: MORE PRODUCTS TO BE COVERED BY ARABIC LABELING REGULATIONS

REF: 77 JIDDA A-81

1. LOCAL ARABIC PRESS STATES THAT FIFTEEN CATEGORIES OF PROCESSED FOODS WILL "SOON" BE ADDED TO EXISTING GROUP OF PRODUCTS WHICH REQUIRE ARABIC LABELING OF (A) PRODUCT NAME (B) NET CONTENTS AND (C) LIST OF INGREDIENTS. DATE OF APPLICATION OF ARABIC LABELING REGULATION TO EXPANDED LIST OF PRODUCTS IS UNKNOWN, BUT EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE WITHIN APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS TIME.

2. FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO EXISTING LIST OF PRE-PACKAGED AND CANNED PRODUCTS WHICH REQUIRE ARABIC LABELING, PASTA PRODUCTS (SPAGHETTI, MACARONI AND "FINE THREAD MACARONI") JAMS AND JELLIES, ALL TOMATO PRODUCTS (JUICE, PASTE, ETC.) CANNED GARBANZA BEANS, GREEN BEANS, ALL OTHER KINDS OF BEANS HALVA, TUNA, MACKEREL AND SARDINES, UNCLASSIFIED

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PROCESSED CHEESE, BOTTLED WATER, EDIBLE SALT, PEAS, PREPACKEAGED MEAT AND ITS DERIVATIVES, ALL KINDS OF SOUP.

3. AS NOTED IN REFAIRGRAM, PRODUCTS WHICH AT THIS TIME REQUIRE ARABIC LABELING INCLUDE: ALL KINDS OF VEGETABLE OR ANIMAL OIL ALL KINDS OF MILK (POWDRED, WHOLE CONDENSED, CONCENTRATED). CREAM JUICE TEA, COFFEE

BEANS (WHOLE GROUND OR POWDRED).

4. IN ADDITION TO REQUIRING ARABIC LABELING OF NAME.

NET CONTENTS, AND LIST OF INGREDIENTS ON ABOVE PRODUCTS

SAUDI GOVERNMENT MANY EVETUALLY REQUIRE ARABIC LANGUAGE

TRANSLATION OF DATE OF MANUFACTURE AND (FOR PERISHABLES)

DATE OF EXPIRY, JIDDA OFFICE OF MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

IS VAGUE ABOUT WHEN, IF NEVER, LATTER REQUIREMENT WOULD

BE ENFORCED. SAG WOULD APPARENTLY PREFER ARABIC

TRANSLATION OF MANUFACTURE/EXPIRY DATE FOR BENEFIT TO

CONSUMERS; HOWEVER, AT PRESENT THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT

THAT THIS INFORMATION BE IN ARABIC.

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